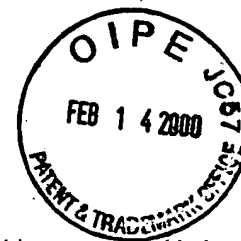


MERCHANT &amp; GOULD P.C.

United States Patent Application

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY



As a below named inventor I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that

I verily believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or a joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FACILITATING, COORDINATING AND MANAGING A COMPETITIVE MARKETPLACE**

The specification of which

- a. ☐ is attached hereto  
b. ☒ was filed on October 20, 1999 as application serial no. **09/421,713** and was amended on (if applicable) (in the case of a PCT-filed application) described and claimed in international no. filed and as amended on (if any), which I have reviewed and for which I solicit a United States patent.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

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- a. ☒ no such applications have been filed.  
b. ☐ such applications have been filed as follows:

FOREIGN APPLICATION(S), IF ANY, CLAIMING PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC § 119			
COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	DATE OF ISSUE (day, month, year)

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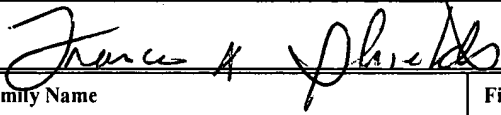
Albrecht, John W.	Reg. No. 40,481	Kowalchyk, Katherine M.	Reg. No. 36,848
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2  0  1	<b>Full Name Of Inventor</b>	<b>Family Name</b> WINTER	<b>First Given Name</b> LARRY	<b>Second Given Name</b> A.
	<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>City</b> CHANDLER	<b>State or Foreign Country</b> ARIZONA	<b>Country of Citizenship</b> USA
	<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>Post Office Address</b> 6140 WEST PARK AVENUE	<b>City</b> CHANDLER	<b>State &amp; Zip Code/Country</b> ARIZONA 85226/USA
<b>Signature of Inventor 201:</b>			<b>Date:</b>	
2  0  2	<b>Full Name Of Inventor</b>	<b>Family Name</b> SHIELDS	<b>First Given Name</b> FRANCIS	<b>Second Given Name</b> X.
	<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>City</b> MEDIA	<b>State or Foreign Country</b> PENNSYLVANIA	<b>Country of Citizenship</b> USA
	<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>Post Office Address</b> 80 OLD MILL DRIVE	<b>City</b> MEDIA	<b>State &amp; Zip Code/Country</b> PENNSYLVANIA 19063/USA
<b>Signature of Inventor 202:</b> 			<b>Date:</b> 1/17/00	
2  0  3	<b>Full Name Of Inventor</b>	<b>Family Name</b> NORTHCUTT	<b>First Given Name</b> ROBERT	<b>Second Given Name</b> L.
	<b>Residence &amp; Citizenship</b>	<b>City</b> PHOENIX	<b>State or Foreign Country</b> ARIZONA	<b>Country of Citizenship</b> USA
	<b>Post Office Address</b>	<b>Post Office Address</b> 16663 SOUTH 18TH WAY	<b>City</b> PHOENIX	<b>State &amp; Zip Code/Country</b> ARIZONA 85048/USA
<b>Signature of Inventor 203:</b>			<b>Date:</b>	



MERCHANT &amp; GOULD P.C.

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0	Residence & Citizenship	City CHANDLER	State or Foreign Country ARIZONA	Country of Citizenship USA
1	Post Office Address	Post Office Address 6140 WEST PARK AVENUE	City CHANDLER	State & Zip Code/Country ARIZONA 85226/USA
Signature of Inventor 201:			Date: 1/31/00	
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Signature of Inventor 203:			Date: 2/1/00	

**§ 1.56 Duty to disclose information material to patentability.**

(a) A patent by its very nature is affected with a public interest. The public interest is best served, and the most effective patent examination occurs when, at the time an application is being examined, the Office is aware of and evaluates the teachings of all information material to patentability. Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section. The duty to disclose information exists with respect to each pending claim until the claim is canceled or withdrawn from consideration, or the application becomes abandoned. Information material to the patentability of a claim that is canceled or withdrawn from consideration need not be submitted if the information is not material to the patentability of any claim remaining under consideration in the application. There is no duty to submit information which is not material to the patentability of any existing claim. The duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability is deemed to be satisfied if all information known to be material to patentability of any claim issued in a patent was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)–(d) and 1.98. However, no patent will be granted on an application in connection with which fraud on the Office was practiced or attempted or the duty of disclosure was violated through bad faith or intentional misconduct. The Office encourages applicants to carefully examine:

- (1) prior art cited in search reports of a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and
- (2) the closest information over which individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application believe any pending claim patentably defines, to make sure that any material information contained therein is disclosed to the Office.

(b) Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim;
- or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
    - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
    - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability.

- (c) Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:
  - (1) Each inventor named in the application;
  - (2) Each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
  - (3) Every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application.
- (d) Individuals other than the attorney, agent or inventor may comply with this section by disclosing information to the attorney, agent, or inventor.